



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health  
Gila River Indian Community

Meeting Minutes July 23<sup>rd</sup> Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council Meeting

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**Council Members in attendance**

Melissa Madrid  
Priscilla Foote, Chair  
Byron Donahue  
Reyna Byler  
Duane Johns, Vice Chair  
Pamela Johnson  
Pat Foster  
Patty Cook

**First Things First Staff**

Cathy Thornton Gila River Indian Community Regional Coordinator  
Ana Garcia Central East Regional Administrative Assistant

**Public**

1 member of the public was present

**Call to order**

Meeting called to order by Regional Partnership Chair Priscilla Foote at approx. 6:18 PM.

Brief welcome to everyone by Regional Partnership Chair Priscilla Foote.

**Invocation**

Invocation by Regional Council Member Reyna Byler

**No Public Comment.**

**Consent Agenda**

Regional Council Member Johnson motioned to approve the July 8, 2008 minutes.  
Regional Council Member Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried. No objections.

**Discussion and Possible Adoption of Council Member Terms**

Regional Coordinator Thornton gave brief explanation of the terms for Council members and the logic behind the 2 yr. and the 4 yr. Terms.

Member Johnson asked if the 2 yr term had to be held by any number of members. Regional Coordinator Thornton explained that 6 Council Members would need to serve for the 4 yr. term and 5 Council Members would have to serve for the 2 yr. term.

Regional Council Terms are as follows:

Priscilla Foote, Chair	Four Year Term
Duane Johns, Vice Chair	Four Year Term
Byron Donahue	Four Year Term
Melissa Madrid	Four Year Term
Pamela Johnson	Four Year Term
Arlie Beeson	Four Year Term

Sister Martha	Two Year Term
Reyna Byler	Two Year Term
Patty Cook	Two Year Term
Pat Foster	Two Year Term
(Philanthropic vacancy)	Two Year Term

Member Donahue motioned to approve the Regional Council Terms as presented. Member Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried. No objections

#### **Discussion and Possible Adoption of Community Outreach and collaboration workgroups**

Regional Coordinator Thornton gave a presentation regarding Strategic Planning and Community outreach and workgroups, site visits etc. to better understand the scope and importance of early childhood development. A hand out was given regarding this presentation.

Presentation included:

- Overview of Strategic Planning
- Strategic Plan elements
- Quality and Access goals
- Communication Goals
- Appreciative Approach to Funding Plan

Chair Foote stressed the importance of community and parental input to really be able to establish the needs of the children in the community. She recognizes that it will be a lot of work but it will be “the type of work that will be invaluable to be able to ascertain which path to take”.

Ms. Thornton indicated that children’s mental health is an area that should be explored because of its importance to a child’s well being. This is an area that has not been addressed and there are no current programs that service those needs. Therefore, collaboration with other organizations is so very important to be able to service the community reading this subject.

Community input will be another important component in establishing our goals. Ms. Thornton indicated that it is up to the Regional Council to decide what needs to be done. What does the Regional Council want? Does the Regional Council want to attend conferences that are coming up? Maybe invite guest speakers to let the Council Members know what programs are available and what they represent.

Ms. Thornton will be gathering information to present to the Regional Council at the August Regional Council meeting.

Member Johnson indicated that she would like to get started and she would like to start giving out surveys in her subdivision. Regional Council Member Donahue would also like to give out some surveys in his community. There is also a parenting class and a meth-amphetamine group where the surveys could be distributed.

Member Foster suggested that the Grandparent support group should also be surveyed. An introduction to the group should be done, and she volunteered to find out what the protocols are in order to be introduced to this group. The Head Start enrollments will be starting soon. This is another group that could provide valuable information.

Ms. Thornton suggested writing a letter of introduction that could be used to introduce the Regional Council and to give a brief description of FTF's goals to the groups and organizations that will be contacted. She will create the letter and will communicate with Regional Council Chair Foote for approval and signature.

Member Foster volunteered to get all necessary information about the Grandparent support group and she will forward it to Ms. Thornton and to Regional Council Member Donahue.

Member Cook pointed out that "Back to School" night will be held August 13, 2008 4:00 to 6:00 PM. She indicated that she will do a brief presentation and give out the surveys.

A presentation will be created so that everyone will be giving the same information to all the groups that will be contacted. Ms. Thornton will create it and she will distribute it to everyone.

Coordinator Thornton reported that she has been working with the hospital to find out what programs they are working with. Ms. Thornton also suggested doing a work group with community leaders.

Member Foster suggested getting the doctors and nurses at one of the HAC meetings. If it was planned well this could be a work group that could be done in 2 hours or less. This work group meeting should be added to the HAC meeting agenda.

Regional Council Chair agreed and stated that the work group should include:

- Vision
- Nutrition
- Dental
- T S S
- Genesis

Member Foster will set the meeting up for August 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Regional Board Member Activities will be as follows:

- Regional Council Member Johnson will do surveys
- Regional Council Member Donahue will do social service surveys
- Regional Council Member Foster will do Grandparent Support Group surveys
- Regional Council Member Cook will do Back to School night surveys and presentation
- Regional Council Member Byler will work to get on the agenda for the August meeting of the Elders Committee
- Regional Council Chair Foote will conduct a work session at HAC

Member Madrid asked; "For those Council Members that won't be able to attend some of these activities will they be able to get a report?"

Regional Coordinator Thornton briefly explained that in every Regional Council Meeting Agenda there is an item that specifically addresses Coordinator's reports and Regional Council Members' reports. Within this item of the agenda all Regional Council Members will report on their activities.

Member Johnson asked when and who would be attending the Community District Meetings?  
Regional Council Chair Foote will get a calendar of the Districts' events.

Chair Foote indicated that at the next Regional Council meeting, Council members should be assigned to the District meetings they will be attending.

Member Foster suggested that a tri-fold presentation might be more effective than a Power Point presentation. Ms. Foster also suggested distributing a Power Point presentation handout to participants. Regional Coordinator Thornton will schedule tentative dates and times for these presentations subject to Regional Council Approval.

No action by the Regional Council was taken at this time on this agenda item.

### **Presentation and Discussion of Strategic Planning**

Regional Coordinator Thornton presentation on Strategic Planning included:

- Financial Policies and Guidelines
- Timeline for FTF Steps and Actions
- Baseline Funding
- Baseline Allocation
- Regional Allocation Methodology
- Hypothetical Regional Allocations
- Discretionary Funding
- Carry Forward
- Allowable Capital Expenditures

A statutory funding allocations chart and a presentation handout were distributed to everyone.

### **Coordinator's Report**

Regional Coordinator Thornton gave brief explanation on key action dates. A key action dates handout and a spread sheet regarding estimated funding were also given to everyone.

Ms. Thornton updated the Regional Council regarding the presentation to the Tribal Council.

All data collection has been done and all the agencies have been forthcoming with the exception of Gila Crossing, Ms Thornton has not been able to get any data from them.

Regarding the state wide report; there is no update at the present time.

Needs and Assets report will be received probably at the end of July. When the Regional Council Members receive their copy they will have a total of 3 days to communicate any changes or correction to Regional Coordinator Thornton. Ms. Thornton advised the Council that there might be the need for an extension on filing the final report with the State.

Regional Council Chair Foote suggested maybe a letter should be sent to the State signed by all Regional Council Members that an extension is necessary in order to be able to make changes and take in front of the Tribal Council.

Regional Coordinator Thornton will check with Dr. Djangi and come up with the best approach.

### **Council member Reports**

Regional Vice Chair Johns indicated that the individual he recommended to fill the Philanthropy vacancy has completed the application and is waiting to hear what the next step will be.

Regional Coordinator Thornton also reported that another candidate has also filled out all the necessary paper work to be considered for the position.

Member Donahue suggested that when the Needs and Assets report is received, an emergency meeting should be held and then the EDC should place the report on their agenda.

Discussion regarding an emergency meeting

No action was taken on this subject.

Next meeting August 20, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Health Resource Center across from the Girls and Boys Club District #6 Ms Thornton will give address to everyone before the meeting. This will be a "Pot Luck" meeting. Everyone will bring a dish.

**Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**Ana Garcia AA III**

**Approved:**

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**Priscilla Foote, Regional Council Chair**